## TERMINATING THE FAMOUS KUKLUX BANDS THAT HAVE OPERATED FOR YEARS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF KENTUCKY.



DWELLING PLACE OF THE REYNOLDS BOYS.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC. nothing of this kind has been known in the Lexington, Ky., July 6.-For an instant central section of the State, but it has only, on the crest of the ridge, a man's moved to the mountains where the people body stood out clearly against the skyline, are more backward in gevelopment. The The crack of a rifle, a writhing mass of home of the feud gave the Kuklux a hearty besh and bone, a fatal wound. welcome, for it was a ready method of paying old scores without having the enemy Death came a few hours later. The

marksman was a triffe nervous and the get wind of the true perpetrators. bullet through the victim's body had not In Letcher County the Kuklux had been quiescent for some years until October, 1899, when a band of men met up on Rockhouse And this-only another incident in the note against the Kuklur in Letcher Coun-Creek, in an isolated spot near the wreck of ty. Kentucky. Bill Wright, Jr., of the posa raided still. There were just thirteen in hunting the outlaws had made a misthe party, and following their rude notions take. He showed himself above the ridge of the proper ceremony on such an occasion and the act cost him his life. John Revthey assembled on Friday at midnight and ds of the outlaws, from a position betook the Kuklux oath. It had been written

d an oak not a dozen yards away, had for them by an almost fillterate school-

fired the fatal shot. He and his brother, master and was read by the light of a dim

e out to search for the men who were de-

a detective who called himself "Wild Bill."

On the other side were John Reynolds and

Creed Potter, and more daring men, better

Mes where Bill Wright fell could be seen

down in the winding valley a little red

here that a band of desperate men for

days bade open defiance to the officers of

the law. It holds a story that it will never

John Wright, the grizzled veteran of

they had not heeded his advice. 'Stay

If I kin ketch any signs of them fellers"

He had hardly gone fifty yards, accomhied by two of his men, when the im-

patient Bill Wright, nothing more than a

poy of 17, stepped above the ridge, A tifle

the scene. Gerrard Wright and John Henry

Elkins were close upon Bili Wright's heels,

and the boy fell in agony almost at his

brother's feet. "Bill's done for," said Gar-

rard quietly, and, dropping to his knee,

commenced pumping builets from his Win-

chester at the man who had slain his broth-

er. Hop Gibson came up just as Creed Pot-

ter began shooting, and the duel opened

between them. Both of the outlaws were

firing from behind trees, although the singing bullets of the Wright faction, which

scattered the bark on either side, kept

John Henry Elkins can give thanks that

he came out of the battle with only four

tangled in this tratedy. He was engaged

to be married to the sister of young Bill

Wright, and the picture of the brown-syed

little mountain girl, weeping for her acad

brother, fired him to deeds of reckiess daring. His sole purpose was to kill John

Reynolds, no matter what the cost. He fired one or two shots from his rifle at

the man hiding behind the tree, and then

cast it aside. Drawing his heavy army

Colt. he leveled it, with both arms outstretched, mountain fashion, and with his

head crouched between his shoulders, so that he could look along the sights, advanced toward the oak tree that shallered Reynolds, A Winchester bullet relieved him of his hat, but still he advanced, until within a few feet of the tree. A bullet simed at the heart struck his revolver, and, glancing, wounded him in four places. It bent

the cylinder and the weapon was useless, be-

cause it would no longer revolve. Elkins

started back toward his rifle, and just then the other members of the posse came into

view on the ridge. They entered the fight

with alacrity, and the outlaws, outnumbered, were forced to retreat. Creed Potter

fied, with four bullet holes in his clothes. John Reynolds stayed a few seconds lorger.

He backed away from tree to tree. For the twinkling of an eye, just before he dis-

as peared behind a bowlder, he and John

Wright, his mortal enemy, covered each

other with their wenpons, Reynolds's Winchester ball clipped a piece from Wright's

hat, not an inch from the left temple, Al-

most at the same time his own right arm

The posse had fared badly. Bill Wright

was taken to a cabin three miles away, but survived only a few hours. Neal had a

ound in the side which was then thought

to be fatal, but he will recover. The glancing bullet had wounded Elkins in four . Thus ended the most notable fight

mining the hunt for the Kuklux in the moun-

men and whipped or otherwise

ated for real or alleged wrongdoing.

m they receive warning to leave the tr. For the last twenty-five years

ounds. For him there was a romance en-

them constantly dodging.

ot called John Wright's division back to

ntain warfare, had warned his men, but

" he said, "while I go 'round and see

olds faction. From the crest of the

house, 15 feet by 10. The little

has since become famous. It was

Noah, had glanced down the sights of stable lantern. Here it is: their weapons once before when a Wright "I swear by God Almighty, by heaven was in front, and the Wright that time his home, by the earth, his foot rest, and "Old Man Bill," father of the lad who by hell, his prison home, to befriend and got his death wound upon the ridge. "Old hold in the sacred bonds of brotherhood all Man Bill" sleeps with his fathers. Like members of the band. I swear that I will the son, he too made a mistake. He was lie for them, steal for them, fight for them, tie slow in drawing and the price of die for them. I will be burned in oil, cut nder was the same in each into pieces and salted rather than inform on ce. But there was a sequel to the them. If they are in trouble I will give up son's death, a bloody battle following imeverything I have to save them. I swear ely on the firing of the shot. The to obey my captain in all things even to nbers of the posse joined in the killing my kin folks. And if in any way I fray and the outlaws were put to flight, break this oath, I hope God may strike me but only after a struggle such as has been dead in my tracks. And if he lets me live een in the mountains. The fight may I be cut in pieces by the members of the Kuklux was nearing an end the band and may my whole life be and the outlaws were making a last and damned '

The band began operations at once. Neil Hall, supposed to have caused trouble in were only six. The posse that had the family of "Bill" Lucas, was taken out and whipped. Sarah Clinch and America tying arrest was composed of John Wright. kuklux for like alleged wrongdoing. George notches on his gun handle; Bill Sexton, an enemy of one of the band, was Wright, Jr., and Gerrard Wright, his beaten with hickory sticks, Dellie Craft, and sons of "Old Man Bill," Hop supposed to be a great friend of Sam John Henry Elkins, Jim Neal and Wright, was treated in a similar fashion. but Sam came upon the scene not ten minutes after the Kuklux had gone. He took short cut, caught them just as they were nd cooler heads could not be found in that section, noted for just such charand in the bright mocalight opened fire from acteristics in its inhabitans. The officers behind a bowlder. Two dead horses and men that they were in the territory of the some blood on the river bank was the re-

MORGAN REYNOLDS. ALLEGED AUTHOR OF THE KLUKLUX BANDS OATH!

JOHN W. WRIGHT, NOTED MOUNTAIN DETECTIVE, WHO LED THE PURSUIT.



MISS MINA HALL HOSE DEATH IS CHARGED TO THE

sult. One of the horses was identified as was the wealthiest man in Letcher. By that of Bland Combs. Wright had identified industry and good management he had acsome of the men in the moonlight and a cumulated \$30,000 in the logging business. dozen arraits followed. Combs got away on He lived on the adjoining farm to the the promise of joining the army, and is now Reynolds boys-John and Noah. They in the Philippines. The other indictments quarreled. The Wrights say the Reynolds d away on good behavior. This were tealous of the old man's success. The ended the first band of Kuklux in Letcher. Reynolds say that Wright was overbearing | Morgan Reynolds, Mac Youts, Joe Johnson, she said. "You'd be picking out all the The county was allowed to remain in and insulting. Both say that they had a peace only a few months. Bill Wright, Sr., quarrel about a poplar tree which Wright som, Zack Bentley, Josh Bentley, Sol Flemof them."

gradations in the quarrel are not known. Wright, distant cousins of the detective, At any event, the two young men, or boys, but belonging to the opposite faction. Creed and old man Bill met in a narrow road near | Potter, John Reynolds and George Cook the latter's house. The wife at the window heard shots and saw her husband fall. That was all. The Reynolds boys fied, but with the arrest of Lige Fleming much were soon captured, and their trial is set had been done. The capture of the others That was all. The Reynolds boys fled, but Whitesburg.

John, a teacher, and known as "the smart- | gan Reynolds, est man in Letcher," at once organized a Kuklux band for the protection of his kinsmen. In November, 1900, the State was perate fight on the ridge precipitated. J. hn startled by the murder of Mrs. Jemima Hall and her 15-year-old son on the upper | in the brush with his wounded arm. Potter, fork of Boone. She was a widow whose hsuband had left her \$300 in life insurance, which she foolishly kept in her cabin home. Sam Vanover stayed at the house to protect the widow and her three children. The Kuklux took it upon themselves to correct this, to them, objectionable action. A slight snow had fallen and served to muffle their horses' hoofbeats. They drew near the cabin and tied their horses. They advanced to the door, and, calling loudly and pounding on the door, demanded admission. The widow answered in trembling tones, and the noise and gruff demands for admission were repeated. Vanover knew what it meant and opened fire through the door from a position in the back room. There were curses and an answering volley was returned. The widow sank back dead, while the body of her eldest son fell cross her. Vanover crept across the room under the bed, while the two children escaped by a rear door into the night. The murderers forced the front door and rifled the place. They withdrew without Vanover being able to recognize any of them. The next morning some of the footprints in the snow were found to contain a tri-

angular mark. Mountain detectives were set to work and at the house of Lige Fleming was found a tell-tale pair of shoes. The right shoe bore on the sole a triangular patch. Fleming confessed and implicated

wished to buy from the Reynolds. The ing, Lige Fleming, John and Martin were also supposed to have been in the

for the August term of Circuit Court at | followed rapidly until there were four of the outlaws at large. Creed Potter, John Morgan Reynolds, a cousin of Noah and | Reynolds, George Cook and the leader, Mor-It was in the attempt to land this quartet

that Bill Wright was killed and the des-Reynolds was arrested, being unable to live tired of the life in hiding, surrendered. Morgan Reynolds took to the little brick openly defied arrest. This continued for a

period of some three weeks, when, weary of the siege, he dispersed his band and, with three companions, started to the distant hills. Cook, Jim Kelly and John Mullins were the men who accompanied him. None of them have been taken as yet.

forces wholesale arrests were made, the Kuklux bands for years to come



WILD BILL CINCINNATI MAN, WHO HAS BEEN HUNTING FOR THE BAND

charge being confederating to protect those house, gathered his friends about him and charged with murder. In all, forty-five men are awaiting trial at Whiteburg either for alleged murder or charges of confederating The trials are set for August. What the result will be lies with the juries.

Governor Beckham has mustered in mountain company to protect good citizena The community is determined, and it is safe Following the dispersal of the Reynolds to predict that Letcher has seen the last of

## JUDGES WOMEN BY THE WAY THEY CARRY UMBRELLAS.

The man who sat nearest the window said he didn't mind the wet weather. "It gives long time ago. You carry an umbrella when me a chance to see how people carry their umbrellas," he said. "I have such firm faith in my umbrella deductions that I wouldn't be afraid to choose a wife with them for a guide."

The woman on his left smiled. "I'm glad I'm not out there in the street," kinks in my disposition along with the rest

forging ahead with the ends of the handle digging into the unfortunate pedestrians who go before and follow after." "And what does that signify?" asked to woman on the left. sideratness."

"Um-m-m," said the wo

it's furled, just like that woman across the

street. You grab it in the middle and go

"But just look at the third wor on," said the man. "I pity the men folks about her house. I'll warrant they have to get their own breakfast about six mornings out of seven. I never yet saw a woman who dragged her umbrella along so that you could track her by the trail of the tip who wasn't dilatory and shiftless. She never sews on a button, or darns, or me and her breakfast dishes are seldom washed before 2 o'clock.

"That other woman who is bustling along holding to the top of the umbrella handle like grim death and pointing the tip down and forward, in a kind of south-by-southwesterly direction, is altogether different She would set the world on fire if it wasn't waterlogged! I am not sure that I'd want to be married to her, either. She'd be too energetic. She'd push everything before her and when she took a notion to clean things up a mere man would have nowhere to lay his head. What she is good for is serving on ommittees.

"That woman in the gray skirt is a yesand-nay sort of person. She wants to agree with everybody, and follows wherever led. Women who carry their umbrellas with the point backward and downward are always

"But just look at that girl who spins along swinging her umbrella around in a circle as if it were a magic wand. I like her. She's jolly and good-natured and gets more pleasure out of life than ten ordinary people. There's a woman carrying her umbrella swung across her shoulder like a shotgun. She's a true soldier of ortune and was never known to say die. I can't think of anything that would fease her." The man paused.

"And what would you say," asked the woman, "about that girl who carries her umbrella horizontally across the small of her back and catches either end into the crook

"Well," admitted the man, "she is a new "Well," admitted the man, "she is a new one on me. I never met her before, but I wouldn't be afraid to wager that she is conscientious to a degree and has a heart as big as all outdoors. But here," he added, "comes the most even-tempered woman of the lot. She cuddles her umbrella protectingly under her arm as if she doesn't want even it to get hurt in the crowd. That woman is gentle and thoughtful and kind."

The Master of Life. I am the plow. Master of Life. Where my sharp coulter leads Ceases sterility; And, by my larges Gladdened and satisfied. I, in the glimmering dawn. Furrowing circlewise Leaving wide gaps where Death Swung his black gates anon-Traced the foundations, where Rose the proud battlements, Bastions and walls round The City of Life!

Come the worn mendicants. Footing it painfully Out from the darkness Into the silence-Here are my alms for you Yours while the earth Summer and winter. seedtime and harvest-Eat and be glad!

To me for charity

Rome and Assyria. Were but my pensioner
I am the permanent
Still stand my kingdom
Still wave the cornfield

## NELL'S HOME WILL STAND ONLY IN FAME.



THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP IN LONDON, MADE FAMOUS BY DICKENS. IT IS SOON TO BE TORN DOWN.

The Kuklux of the mountains are much as were the Kuklux in the more advanced ns of the State immediately after the • Few Years Bring About, and so Do • Civil War. They are a band bound together s solemn oath, and they pretend to reg-♦ Things Pass Away—Like a Tale That ♦ white morals of the community. Men and ♦ Is Told."-Old Curlosity Shop. en are taken from their homes at night

E++++++++++++++ WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC. usands of people in every part of the world will feel a pang of regret at the in- Looking into the old-fashioned windows

down to give place to a modern structure. It is said by those who watch the sightseers that no place exept the Tower attracts so many intelligently interested visitors as this queer little place that lives in the memory of every reader of Dickens as the home of Little Nell and Grandfather.

and gurgled in the tiny bedroom of Little Nell while she and her grandfather stole out and away from the sorrow that had cast so deep a shadow over them.

"The place," says Dickens, "was one of those receptacles for old and curious things have been designed in dreams. which seem to crouch in odd corners of this town, and to hide their musty treasures was wonderfully suited to the place; he must have originally attracted the novelist. which seem to crouch in odd corners of this

ghosts in armor here and there; fantastic carvings brought from monkish cloisters; musty weapons of various kinds; distorted tries and strange furniture that might a waste-paper shop in recent years, but has

# + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + | telligence that the original of Charles Dick- from the street, one can imagine how the | from the public eye in jealousy and distrust. | might have groped among the churches • "Such Are the Changes Which a • ens's "Old Curiosity Shop" is to be torn impossible Quilp, back of one of them, lay There were suits of mail standing like and tombs and deserted houses and gathered all the spoils with his own hands There was nothing in the whole collection but was in keeping with himself; nothing figures in china and wood and iron; tapes- that looked older or more worn than he." The queer old place has been turned into